31st BRITISH EASTER SF CONVENTION

4—7 April 1980

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CONVENTIONAL REACTION

PROGRAMME BOOK

OMNI

at ALBACON 80

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TOMORROW'S MAGAZINE *TODAY*

ALBACON 80

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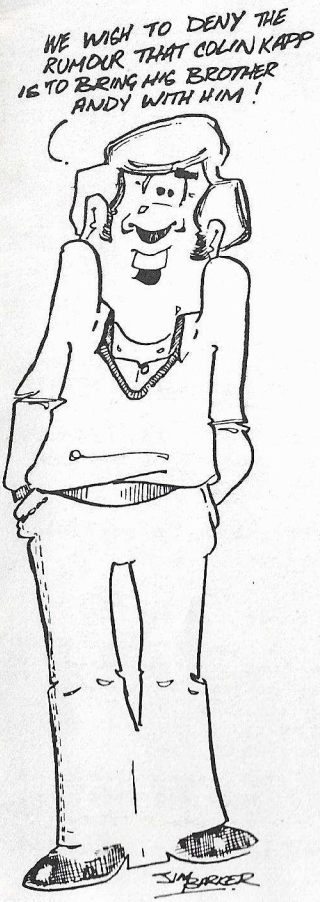

Bob Shaw

A long time ago, in a Convention far, far away, a group of Scots (and quasi-Scots) sat drinking their midnight drinks.

"Why don't *we* run a Convention", quoth one.

"Yes, why don't you....."

The various enthusiastic ~~drunks~~ supporters of that Convention discussion came together again the following day, and the seeds of World Domination were sown.

Glasgow had at that time a young and struggling SF Fan Group, The Friends of Kilgore Trout. Blessed with vast inexperience the Trouts went off and started looking at hotels in which to hold a small-scale 'regional' Convention: Faircon.

We looked at all the sites available in the inner City, and, in passing, noted the presence of the Albany looming over Anderston.

"We'll go there for the Eastercon!" was the wry comment.

Well, that is where we are, and it certainly seems to be Easter.....

Glasgow fans have run two Cons to date (and will run a fourth -*Hitchercon*- in September). We've always tried hard to make our cons approachable for the newcomer, basically because we had to. There was no way that we could count on attracting sufficient southern fans to the icy bastions of Glasgow to make the whole event worthwhile, and so had to try to prise out of the woodwork those fans who didn't even *realise* that they were fans!

One major requirement, as we saw it, was to have a firmly controlled and full Programme in order to entice people through the door, and then seduce them with the ways of fandom.

This seemed to work, and in fact we still don't seem to have plumbed the depths of proto-fandom out there!

As a result, and as we promised, Albacon has a large range of Programme events. We have our Main Programme, on which we reckon to have placed the most popular events, our Alternate, which is just that, and includes minority interest subjects and a Fan Programme, where you can forget about all that sci-fi stuff and get into the real meat of fandom!

In addition to these there are the Video/Audio Programmes, and a variety of exhibits and demonstrations ranging from spaceflight to wargaming by way of microprocessors.

But remember that these Programmes are just hooks to hang the Convention coat on; the best part of a con starts when you meet the first old friend, or make a new one.

The Albacon Committee, it must be said, will be in the forefront of those of the membership who won't be hanging onto every article of deathless wisdom dropped from the participants' fertile brains -no, they'll be in the bar, where we hope to meet you over the weekend....

As well as expressing the Committee's welcome to you all, there are certain people who we must welcome for themselves. Persons without whose help our Convention would not be the same!

Most important is, of course, our Guest of Honour: Colin Kapp

Colin Kapp is not a regular attendee at Conventions, and so we hope that you'll all conspire to make his stint as Guest of Honour a memorable experience.

We are certainly pleased to see him; many of the Committee admit to having been weaned on his excellent series of Unorthodox Engineer stories. These are now available as a collection (plug, plug) and will be on sale throughout the course of the weekend...

Our Fan Guest of Honour is quite the opposite. Although into fandom deeply for only the past five or six years, Jim Barker has made quite an impact. It must be admitted that since his crash diet his weighty presence has been somewhat less noted.....

Jim draws cartoons, and they are in general very good. Some are in dubious taste, however, so be warned: do NOT turn to his Scotty Horror Picture Page unless you have a strong constitution! Naturally, if you're English it doesn't matter- you won't understand them enough for the effect to sink in...

Last of our trio of special welcomes is reserved for Jim White, our Toastmaster. Jim (a person of barely average height) was one of the major supporters of both Faircons and we are especially pleased to welcome both he and Peggy to Albacon.

Enjoy yourselves, have a good time, and mine's a pint.....

BoG

PS Does anyone know why Jim Barker resigned from the BSFA?

COLIN KAPP
Guest of Honour

COLIN KAPP
GUEST of HONOUR

Gordon Johnson

Every SF author (whether he wants to be called that or not) manages to approach fiction with a slant recognisably his own, despite the fact that we fans prefer to lump them into 'hard' SF,'New Wave', or other handy brackets.

Colin Kapp does not produce like Ellison or Asimov, nor does he hand out tomes of 400 pages. He concentrates on certain key ideas which obviously appeal to him, and explores these few to the exclusion of most other aspects. The ideas tend to be solid scientific ones which involve facts of phyics or other branches of the physical sciences.

In consequence, he can find himself accused of cardboard characters or of at least utilising very simplified characters, not fully fleshed out. To me, it really depends on what you are reading a particular author for; be it that touch of talent, a witty style, pen portraits, clever science, or plain good writing. Colin Kapp is best read for a well-written tale which shows how much fun can be got from exploring the possibilities of a good idea based on either fairly solid science or plausible pseudo-science.

When the story requires a concentration on character he is fully capable of producing the personalities to achieve this. He under-writes, using descriptions sparingly but effectively. One particular story has stuck in my mind ever since I read it first, many years ago: *The Glass of Iargo*. (*New Worlds*, no 100, Nov 1960). It revolves around the secret of the making of a beautiful glass on the planet Iargo, under a brutal regime.

The engaging hero come to steal the secret and break the regime's monopoly is a spy posing as a cheeky poet. The plot is revealed through the interplay between him and the people he encounters, resulting in a short story that is at times very funny, sometimes rather sad and despairing of man's easy fall into inhumanity, but always demanding of the reader's attention. Try to get hold of a copy and read it for yourself.

What would, of course, be even better would be for Colin Kapp's publishers to produce a collection of some of his *New Worlds* stories (apart from the *Unorthodox Engineers* collection recently published. From *Enigma* to *Survival Problem* they deserve the wider circulation which book publication can give.

COLIN KAPP
Guest of Honour

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Abbreviations: *Ed:* Edited by *If:* Worlds of If *NW:* New Writings in SF

TITLE	MAGAZINE PUBLICATION	BOOK PUBLICATION
Ambassador to Verdammt	Analog April 1967	World's Best SF & World's Best SF:1968 Both Ed- Wollheim &Carr
The Bell of Ethicona	New Worlds 101 Dec 1960	-
The black hole of Negrav	-	NW-25 Ed- Bulmer The Unorthodox Engineers (author collection)
Breaking point	New Worlds 89 Dec 1959	-
Calling Mr Francis	New Worlds 84 Jun 1959 (UK) New Worlds 1, Mar 1960 (US)	-
Cassius and the mind-jaunt	-	NW-27 Ed- Bulmer
The chaos weapon	-	Ballantine 1977 (US) Dobson 1979
The cloudbuilders	-	NW-12 Ed- Carnell World's Best SF:1969 Ed- Wollheim & Carr Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow Ed- Heintze, Herbert & Joos
Crime-scan	Galaxy March 1973	-
The dark mind (later, Transfinite man)	New Worlds 136-8 Nov 1963 to Jan 1964	Corgi 1965
Enigma	New Worlds 91 Feb 1960	-
The exposing eye	New Worlds 99 Oct 1960	-
For the love of Pete	New Worlds 111 Oct 1961	-
Getaway from Getawehi	-	NW-16 Ed-Carnell The Unorthodox Engineers (author collection)

The glass of Iargo	New Worlds 100 Nov 1960	-
Gottlos	Analog Nov 1969	Analog 8 Ed- Campbell
Hunger over sweet waters	-	NW-4 Ed- Carnell
I bring you hands	Galaxy Oct 1968	-
The imagination trap	-	NW-10 Ed- Carnell NW- 8 Ed- Carnell (US)
The ion war	-	Ace 1978 (US) Dobson 1979
Lambda 1	New Worlds 125 Dec 1962	Lambda 1 Ed- Carnell
Letter from an unknown genius	Analog Aug 1971	-
Life plan	New Worlds 77 Nov 1958	
Manalone	-	Panther 1977
Mephisto and the ion explorer	If Oct 1974	The best from If Vol 3 Ed-Baen
The night-flame	-	NW-2 Ed- Carnell The best from NW, first selection Ed- Carnell
The old king's answers	Galaxy Sept 1973	-
The patterns of chaos	If Jan/Feb-May/June 1972	Gollancz 1972 Award (US)1973 Panther,1974
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The railways up on Cannis	New Worlds 87 Oct 1959 New Worlds 3 May 1960 (US) as: The railways	Out of this world 2 Ed-Williams-Ellis &Owen The best of New Worlds Ed- Moorcock
The subways of Tazoo	-	NW-3 Ed- Carnell Strange universe Ed-Williams-Ellis & Owen The best from NW, first selection Ed- Carnell
The survival game	-	Ballantine 1976 (US) Dobson 1977 SF Book Club 1978
Survival problem (later: Problem, survival)	New Worlds 82 April 1959	-
The Teacher	Analog Aug 1969	The best of British SF 2 Ed- Ashley
Transfinite man (previously: The dark mind)	-	Berkeley 1964 (US)

Continued on P 12

Great Faircon Book-Title Competition

Each cartoon is a pun on a relatively well known SF book. All you have to do is decipher the cartoons, and list your answers below.

Entries must be in by 5pm on Saturday. At the banquet the results of the competition (plus ...s) will be made.

.....
.....
.....

JIM BARKER
FAN GUEST of HONOUR

Bob Shaw

The first time I ever heard of *Jim Barker* was in mid 1977. A letter dropped through my eroded letterbox, and fell to the floor with a loud *YIPPEE!*

Jim Barker had entered my life. Across the heading of a letter which began, with appropriate finesse, "Dear Mary", was scrawled that single yell of delight which had woken me out of my pre-Faircon slumber:

Dear Mary,
I have been a sci-fi fan for over two months and want to help you with your convention. Although I live in the Outer Hebrides I am willing to help you in any way, unless it involves money.
Please excuse the spelling and typing, as I am only twenty-four (23).
Yours Sincerly,
JIM BARKER xxx
PS I can draw a bit and work in the art department of a local paper.

Well, truth to tell, it wasn't *quite* like that. After a couple of weeks he phoned me to ask what was happening with Faircon and it turned out that *Jim Barker* was not only a nice guy, but also a good guy to know! Consider: A new and impoverished Convention, without even the cash to pay for decent printing services, just happens to be given the aid of someone who actually works in a newspaper Art Department...

Very few people can be as dedicated as he is. Actually having a process camera, typesetter, and film lab *at home* as well as working with them during the day reveals a dedication to the cause of art (and fandom) only rarely surpassed. Why, the amount of money *Jim* spent on photographic paper (plus the cost of the equipment- it was almost good enough to use on a newspaper) was quite unbelievable. I,of course, never did believe it.

And the work! Ring, Ring, goes the phone. Answer, Answer. Scribble, draw and colour. Into the clutches of the GPO, and voila! Instant Art!

It became a truism for a lot of people that *Jim* would simply do artwork of a very high quality on demand, as if he was somehow a clone.....

The artwork, and ceaseless letter-writing from that lonely garret in Falkirk helped put Scotland on the fannish map, and naturally, also helped put *Jim Barker* on the award trail. He was nominated for a Hugo at Seacon last year, and it is said that he only missed by a margin. In fact *Superman* aka *Christopher Reeve* , was so impressed by his presence (he was putting on weight again) that he almost apologised for winning a Hugo. I'm still not quite sure, however, just what it was that *Jim* did in order to make *Superman* think that he was the Hitch-Hiker's guide to the Galaxy.....

Jim does have a negative side. He gets depressed by Life, The Universe, and the Russians in Afghanistan. At one point he was plainly concerned that WW III would be declared *before* -or even *during*- Albacon. Loud protestations that we were insured against no-one turning up failed to placate him. Even the observation that anyone who could last through Albacon should be perfectly suited to life in the nuclear desert failed, somehow, to reassure him. Perhaps it was the thought of no fanzines...

It is in Albacon's Fan Room that *Jim Barker* will shine over the weekend; a lot of thought, and even effort, has been expended by him in his role as *Jimmy Robertson's* evil genius on the organisation front. Without the efforts of our Fan Guest of Honour the Fan Room would be an empty broom cupboard in Leeds!

For the second Bid Report of Albacon *Jim Barker* was described thusly:

"He first entered fandom in 1974, when he attended Tynecon in Newcastle. Born in 1954, he got into SF by way of *Superman*, and now says that he "is into heavy stuff, like *Kemlo*". He used to weigh 16st plus, and is now a "slim 12½st". All this weight has been lost off his head... His first illos for fandom were in the Nebula fanzine. He is now published in all the best British fanzines, and even some published by the BSFA. *Jan Howard Finder* recently published an issue of Spang Blah entirely devoted to his work."

More than that, it is hard to say.

So: the many and varied virtues and talents of our Fan GoH, *Jim Barker* have been at best dimly reflected here. Speak to him, buy him a pint, laugh at his jokes. Make him feel at home, away from the perils and pressures of life.

And above all else, never, ever, ask him just WHY he resigned from the BSFA!

By the way, *Jim*, why did you resign...?

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COLIN KAPP
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War of the wastelife	Galaxy May 1974	-
What the thunder said	-	NW-21 Ed-Carnell
Which way do I go for Jericho?	-	NW-20 Ed-Carnell
The wizard of Anharitte	If Nov/Dec 1972 to Mar/Apr 1973 (US)	Award 1973 (US) Panther 1975 Ace 1980 (US)

COLLECTION: The Unorthodox Engineers 216pp Dobson 1979

The railways up on Cannis, The subways of Tazoo, The pen and the dark, Getaway from Getawehi, The black hole of Negrav

COLIN KAPP

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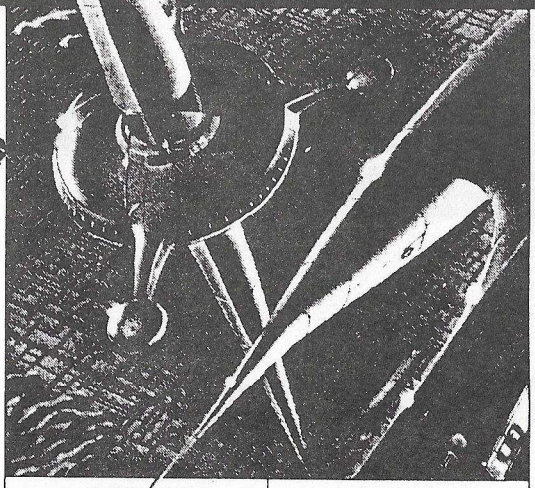

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MAGNUM BOOKS

If you would like to know more about the Magnum SF list and our full plans for 1980, The Publicity Department, Magnum Books, North Way, Andover, Hampshire, would be happy to help you.

Bureau' operated through each other and through national organisations such as the American N3F; Janie Lamb and Dlvad Rike were the US 'Operators' from 1950 to 1953.

Basically, the whole idea was that if any active fan anywhere thought he or she could offer some service to fandom we would help put that service in front of a prospective market.

We had research facilities, clipping services, and all sorts of odd little departments which were run by fine people who did fine work for the fun and pleasure they got out of it.

It was nice while it lasted -but it was supported artificially out of my army pay --membership fees covered the overheads, and the trading aspects made some money, but most of the publishing was paid for out of my own personal funds-- and when I came out of the army.....

HITCHERCON ONE

A CONVENTION AT THE END OF ~~TIME~~ SEPTEMBER

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PROGRESS REPORT 1

26-28 SEPTEMBER 1980

The fourth SF Convention to be held in Glasgow

Details from Steve Miller, 30 Ronaldsay Street, Milton, Glasgow G22

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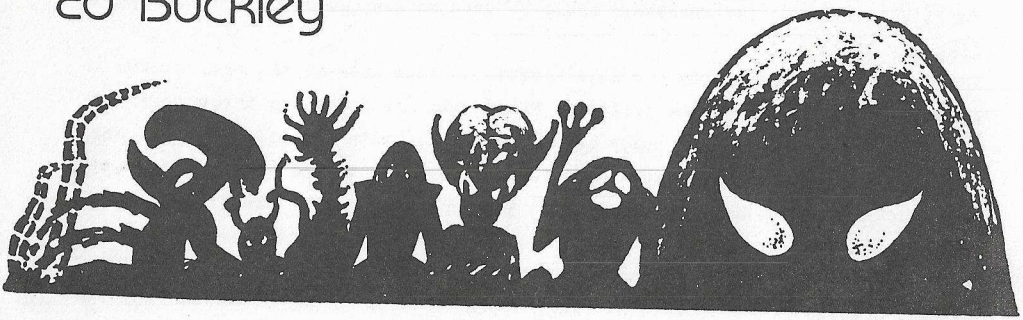
MONSTERS!

Ed Buckley



'A noise came out of the all-wave reciever. It was not a voice in any normal sense. It was a mooing, bleating, howling sound, more like the dismal bellow of an animal than anything else. Karen went pale. The idea of a mysterious alien spaceship operated by men would be alarming enough to a girl -- but a spaceship with a crew of beasts who made mere sounds instead of speech.....'

(SPACE GYPSIES - Murray Leinster)

' "I'd hate to meet that baby on a dark night in an alley."

"Don't be silly. This is obviously an intelligent creature. Probably a member of the ruling race." '

(VOYAGE OF THE SPACE BEAGLE - A.E. Van Vogt)

' "And the rest?" Hokotan asked, with an expectant look. He knew what was to be done, but he wanted to hear MacMaine say it again.

MacMaine obliged.

"Hang them. Every man, every woman, every child. I want them to be decorating every lamppost and roof-beam on the planet, dangling like overripe fruit when the Earth forces return." '

(THE HIGHEST TREASON - Randall Garrett)

What makes a Monster? These quotes from various S.F. stories give us three different answers : because of the unknown (fear); because of their appearance (non-acceptability); because of their violence (personal threat).

The luckless crew of the spaceship 'Nostromo' encountered an adversary who combined all three, in the recent cinematic S.F. epic, ALIEN.

Now there was a monster for you (and him, and her, and....) -- all teeth and slavering mouth. It didn't have eyes out on the ends of stalks, -- it went for the men as well as the women, -- and it didn't have tentacles either, just fairly arm-shaped arms, so it was unlike.... Wait a bit though, didn't it have

a tail in both its first, and final (?) form -- a tail which either wound round the victim's throat or sneaked between their legs and stabbed 'em in the back? this could be the equivalent of a single tentacle, so that this modern monster isn't all that new; its ancestors could be seen on the covers of the S.F. pulps from way back.

At least it was a fairly horrible monster, unlike some of the caricatures in some low-budget films of the 'fifties. Their creators seemed to throw together fangs, bulging eyes, horns, lumpy skin, hair, etc., with such abandon that one felt like laughing at the result (and frequently did). It was no laughing matter for budding science-fiction fans in that period though, as it meant that the 'X' Certificate was thought applicable to almost all films featuring S.F. George Pal's WAR OF THE WORLDS has been shown on T.V. and looks pretty tame nowadays, but was classed as horror when it first appeared. THE THING, CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON, IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE, INVASION OF THE BODYSNATCHERS, DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS, etc., etc. All Cert. X! Admittedly, a lot of rubbish was thankfully missed because of the Censor, such as an alien looking like someone with a badly-stuffed sack over their head and upper body, with ping-pong ball 'eyes' attached (INVASION OF THE STAR CREATURES).

A plausible monster lends believability to cover art as well as movies, and obvious derivatives of film aliens keep turning up in S.F. mags, such as a 1967 copy of IF SCIENCE FICTION , which features a spaceman being rayed down by the alien from I MARRIED A MONSTER FROM OUTER SPACE.

When the spaceships land and THEY come out, we may find a comment in the JEFF HAWKE strip appropriate: ' "The things in that ship aren't on film, Mr. Krimm - they're real! Perhaps horribly real!" '

If an older, wiser, race comes out we may see, not the half-expected monsters but handsome, god-like beings -- long contact experience on their part causing them to mask their actual form until the contactee race is mature enough to accept it. We may not even <u>see</u> them at all! Clarke's 'Overlords' in CHILDHOOD'S END hid themselves from view for just this reason. Different ideologies breed violent reactions on this planet, even when people are the same colour, never mind shape! A cartoon in PUNCH depicted a 'monster' reaction from the viewpoint of the aliens. Tramping across a field from their landed saucer, they suddenly come upon a massive, black, over-ornate, American car and flee in terror, thinking its headlights are eyes and the radiator grille a mouth of snarling teeth.

Mars remained the prime abode of monsters until Mariner and Viking photos showed the harsh reality. Since Wells' monsters first toppled ' into the pit, with a thud like the fall of a great mass of leather ', we've been encountering the Martians in one form or another -- and usually up to no good.

John Carter, an early visitor to Mars, found that friends <u>could</u> be made by being kind to Thoats, fifteen-foot green giants with four arms and tusks, and

other, more human, creatures. Not totally successful in his efforts however, he ran into problems with T'ralllaa, a stranded interstellar tourist who resembled a dragon (with slavering jaws, tentacles, telepathy, etc., etc.).

Martian monsters took on many forms (Mutations due to Mars being too far from the Sun or too near the Asteroids perhaps?), and we have been regaled over the years with creatures running the whole gamut from mutant humans (post-atomic war) through giant bat-rat-spider-crabs to amoebae which 'spread like cold, inky, lava enveloping the three terrified spacemen with its clammy blackness'.

It seems that their best friends must have told them eventually for, in still another JEFF HAWKE story of the late 'fifties we discover that the Martians had managed to 'perfect surgical and bio-chemical techniques to such a degree that they could rebuild their own physical structure'. Having rebuilt themselves into the good old human shape, they then found that their minds had changed with their bodies, so D-DAY for Earth is postponed yet again.

In some stories the term 'monster' really refers to the large size and resulting clumsiness rather than any inherent hostility, such as when a Venusian Sea Horse comes up under the explorers' boat, a giant 'Ymir' rampages through Rome, or King Kong wants to seranade his girl from the biggest tree in New York. Size seems more menacing when 'little' monsters appear on the scene, as in PHASE IV. (Possibly an unconcious belief that small ones can sneak into our cozy homes, while the big ones couldn't get through the doorway.) Sometimes the little ones are lovable, but therein lies the danger. Who would call a Tribble a monster or think of it as a menace?

There are monsters of the vegetable variety, most of which are rooted in one place and can only grab victims when they walk within reach. I said that most of them are rooted, for the best-known plant monsters, John Wyndham's 'Triffids' , were able to move (slowly) although their sting was the main danger, not their mobility.

'Monsters' come in all shapes, some extremely unattractive both in appearance and habits, and only by their actions can we judge whether we are faced with the interstellar equivalent of Jack the Ripper or P.C. Dixon. (Just hope it isn't Jack you meet!) In order to forestall any disaster which might befall were we to await an alien's actions, it may be prudent to try and communicate first, and from a safe distance, with weaponry available should he/she/it prove violent. The usual ring of tanks round the landed spaceship might not be such a bad idea after all -- just have them more unobtrusive. But may we interpret the actions of an alien 'monster' wrongly? Among primitives, a blood transfusion could be looked on as the work of the Devil, which is why Thrykar, an e-t scientist on a long space flight (in the Hal Clement story UNCOMMON SENSE) has to be so circumspect in obtaining a small amount of blood in order to sustain his near-immortal body.

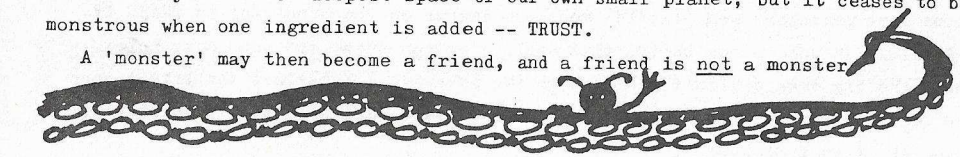
There are other monsters which are so utterly alien in appearance that the reaction ' It's coming towards us! Shoot! Whatever it is, we've got to kill it! ' springs unbidden to our lips. A person with a fear of spiders, if armed, will probably blast away if a THING like a large purple tarantula rises from behind a hedge to ask the way to the nearest radio-telescope, so that he can contact the Galactic A.A. (Astrocraft Association or Alcoholics Anonymous?)

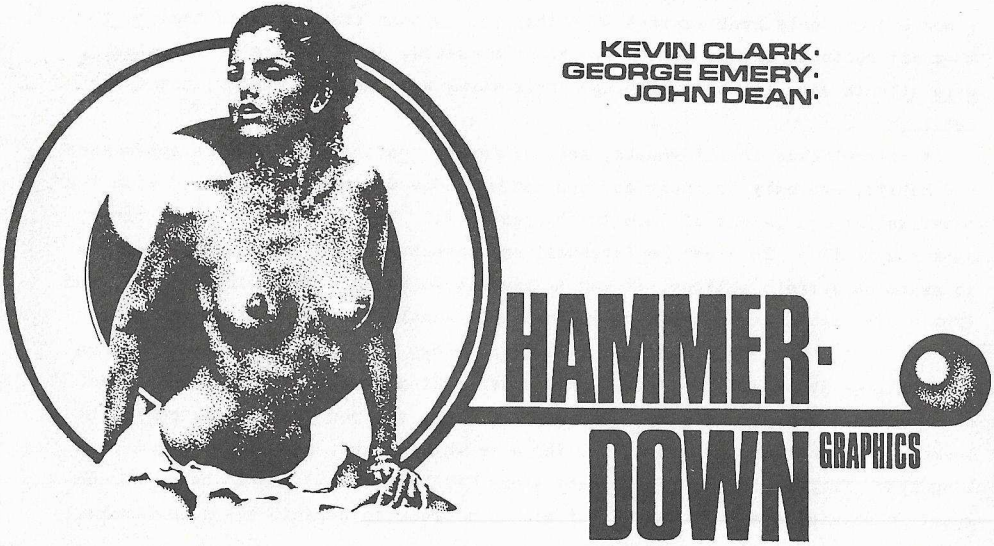
Mutant monsters have usually got that way as a result of atomic war and are nearly always grossly deformed, because they provide the 'baddies' that the hero will defeat in order to rescue the heroine. This is, of course, the extreme case Stories have featured mutant villains who are only slightly deformed to the eye, their deformation being in their mental processes -- such as Asimov's 'Mule', or the elusive superman in BUT WITHOUT HORNS. Then, of course, there is the type of 'monster' whom we are most likely to meet -- he of the warped mind. Without the excuse of mutation, they become monsters through a callous indifference to human (or alien) life, shown in the harsh order to 'Kill them all!' whether it applies to a mere (?) dozen, or an entire planetary population.

What makes a Monster?

A 'monster' is the misunderstood; no matter its shape, colour, size, or way of life. It may come from deepest space or our own small planet, but it ceases to be monstrous when one ingredient is added -- TRUST.

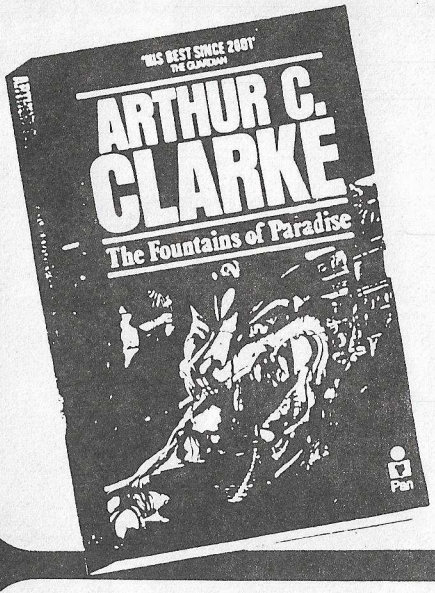
A 'monster' may then become a friend, and a friend is not a monster





The Fountains of Paradise

Arthur C. Clarke



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Bob Shaw

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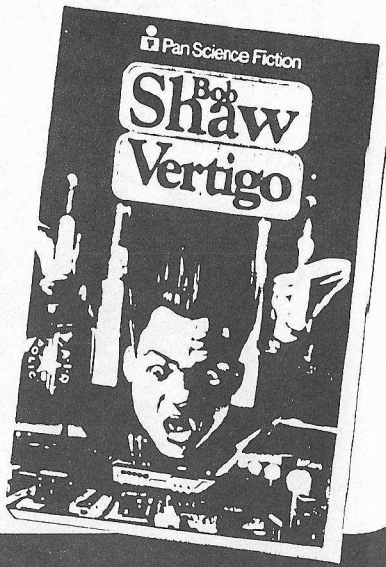

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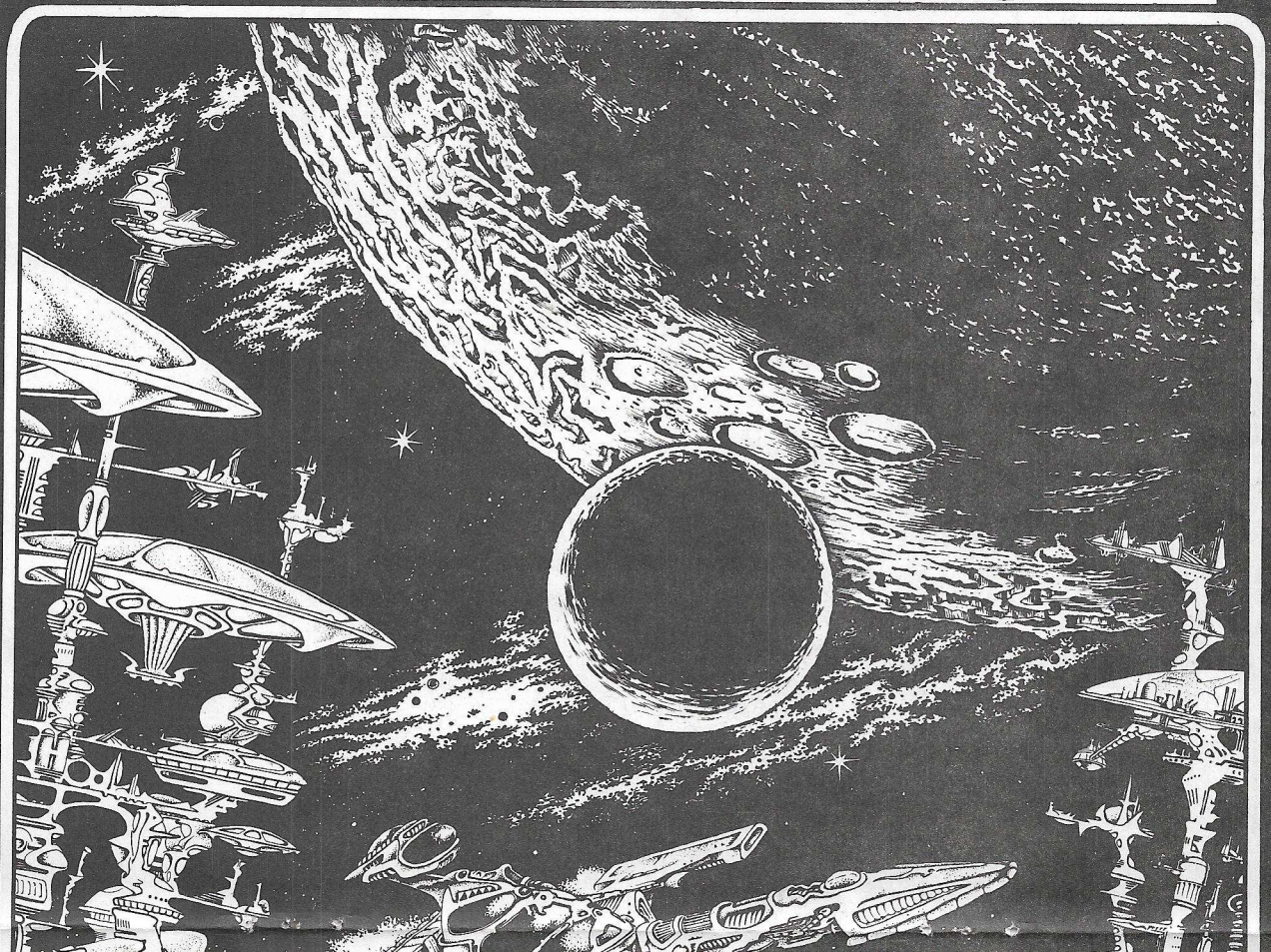

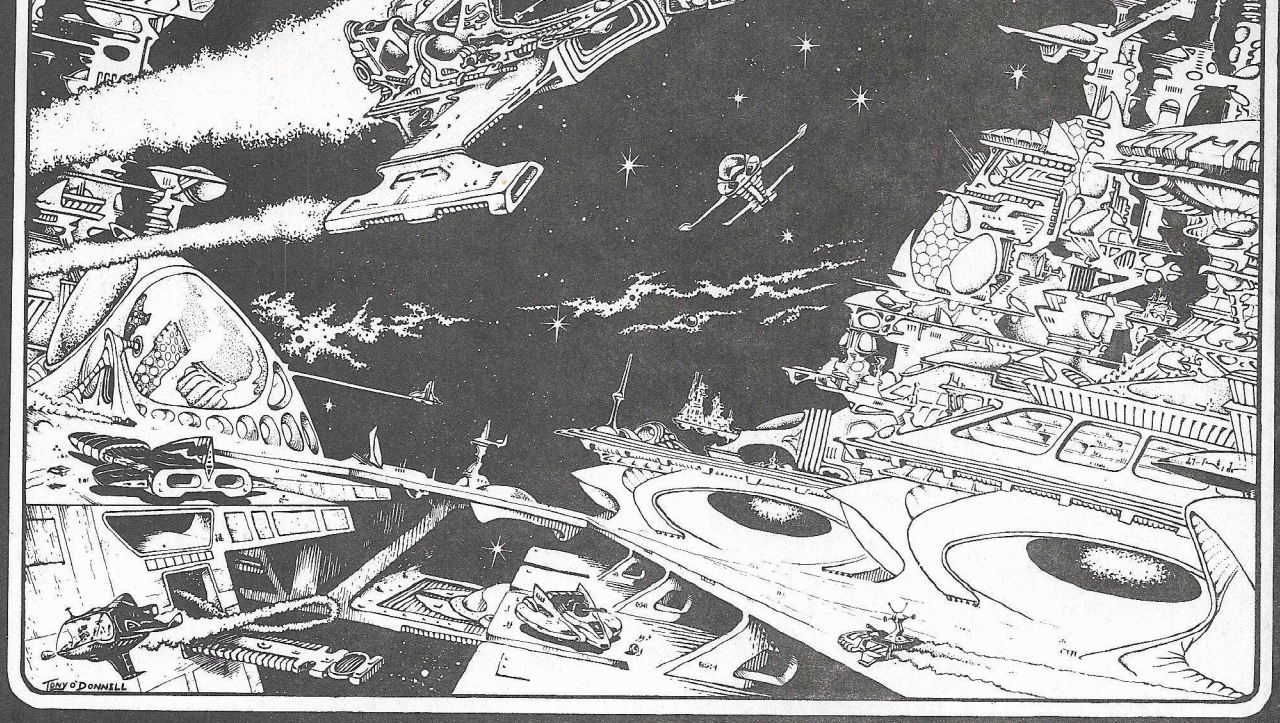

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EASTERCON '79 ACCOUNTS

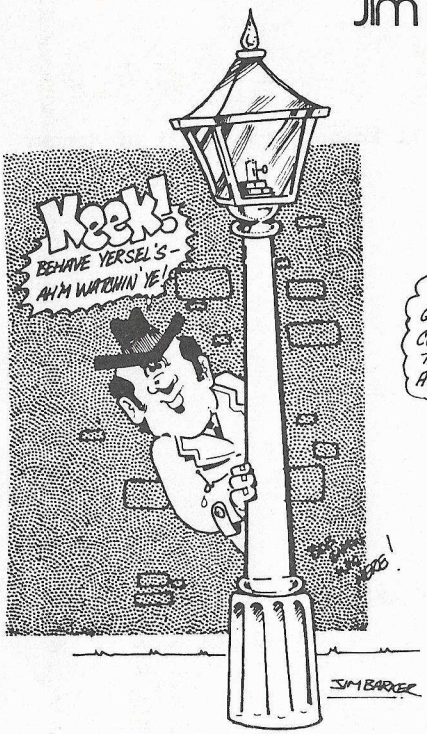
It is traditional for the organisers of the preceding Eastercon to provide the current Eastercon Committee with a set of Accounts. The organisers of Yorcon (the Leeds Group) have not done so.

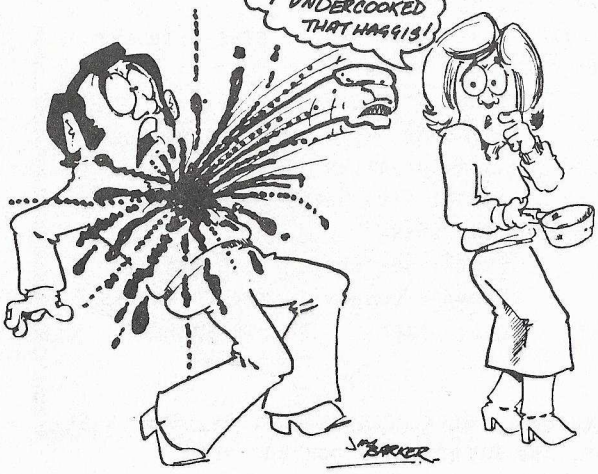
PAST EASTERCONS

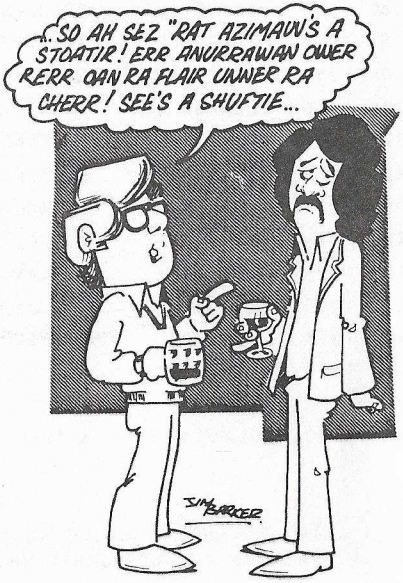
No	Year	Place	Name	Guest of Honour	Fan Guest of Honour
1	1948	LONDON			
2	1949	LONDON			
3	1951	LONDON	*FESTIVENTION*		
4	1952	LONDON			
5	1953	LONDON	*CORONCON*		
6	1954	MANCHESTER	*SUPERMANCON*		
7	1955	KETTERING	*CYTRICON*		
8	1956	KETTERING	*CYTRICON II*		
(-	1957	LONDON WORLD	CONVENTION)		
9	1958	KETTERING	*CYTRICON III*		
10	1959	BIRMINGHAM			
11	1960	LONDON			
12	1961	GLOUCESTER	*LXICON*	KINGSLEY AMIS	
13	1962	HARROGATE	*RONVENTION*		
14	1963	PETERBOROUGH	*BULLCON*		
15	1964	PETERBOROUGH	*REPETERCON*		
16	1965	BIRMINGHAM	*BRUMCON II*		
17	1966	YARMOUTH	*YARCON*	RON WHITING	
18	1967	BRISTOL	*BRISCON*	JOHN BRUNNER	
19	1968	BUXTON	*THIRDMANCON*	KEN BULMER	
20	1969	OXFORD	*GALACTIC FAIR*	JUDITH MERRIL	
21	1970	LONDON	*SCICON '70*	JAMES BLISH	
22	1971	WORCESTER	*EASTERCON 22*	ANNE McCAFFREY	ETHEL LINDSAY
23	1972	CHESTER	*CHESSMANCON*	LARRY NIVEN	
24	1973	BRISTOL	*OMPACON*	SAMUEL R DELANY	
25	1974	NEWCASTLE	*TYNECON*	BOB SHAW	PETER WESTON
26	1975	COVENTRY	*SEACON*	HARRY HARRISON	
27	1976	MANCHESTER	*MANCON 5*	ROBERT SILVERBERG	PETER ROBERTS
28	1977	COVENTRY	*EASTERCON '77*	JOHN BUSH	
29	1978	HEATHROW	*SKYCON*	ROBERT SHECKLEY	LEROY KETTLE
30	1979	LEEDS	*YORCON*	RICHARD COWPER	THE CHARNOCKS
31	1980	GLASGOW	*ALBACON 80*	COLIN KAPP	JIM BARKER

TWO SF CONVENTIONS HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN HELD IN GLASGOW. THEY WERE: *FAIRCON '78* GOH JAMES WHITE, AND *FAIRCON '79* GOH BOB SHAW

Jim Barker's SCOTTY HORROR PICTURE PAGE







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EAST & WEST

Bob Shaw
Jim Darroch
Owen Whiteoak

Many of the attendees throughout Albacon will, of course, already be suffering from a strange and terrifying disorder. Known as The Friends of Kilgore Trout, this affliction er, afflicted them on the Thursday before Albacon, when the Cabin Bar was invaded by a strange and eldritch crew.

For anyone who isn't aware of the awful doom that hangs over Glasgow on Thursday nights (especially when a gibbous moon leers knowingly over the swamp-pits of Kelvinbridge..) the following may serve as a pitifully inadequate warning.....

Glasgow's SF fan group meets every Thursday in Wintersgill's Lounge Bar on Great Western Road. From about eight o'clock onwards the Trouts begin to shoal, imbibing freely of spiritous, and non-spiritous, refreshments.

Members of FOKT have organised the two previous Conventions held in Glasgow, and are largely responsible for Albacon.

As a one-off event, especially for Albacon, the six Prime Trouts (of whom, as previously reported, there are eight, and shortly, nine) ordained that FOKT would move, for one day only, to the Cabin. Once a Member of FOKT you're stuck for life with the dread cognomen; you can't escape (as Jim Barker tried to do from the BSFA) by merely not paying your dues- there aren't any! And, in addition, you can't claim that you've been out of touch and are therefore no longer a Trout, for even the regular visitors to Wintersgills must confess themselves to be hopelessley ~~INEBRIATED~~ insulated from normalacy.

Should you desire to taste the forbidden joys of FOKT, then come along any Thursday. More details are available (like what the hell a Prime Trout is!) from any of the Albacon Committee, or ring Bob Shaw on (041) 334 6874 after the Convention.....

FOKT is no longer alone; some years ago it spawned and created firstly, Glasgow's Comics Fan Group (same Pub, but Wednesdays) and later, the Edinburgh Friends of Fandom.

The Friends were largely the baby of Eric 'from Berwick' Brodie, whose career as a down-and-out eventually forced him to leave for London and a (shock, horror) job. When he left the Friends grew less, until only Phil Dawson remained.

And then, new blood appeared.... Messrs Darrock and Whitoak take up the story....

"The Edinburgh sf fan group took up the name "FORTH" when it was realised what an appropriate acronym it *would* have made, if only Jim Barker and Chris Evans' cartoon creation Elmer T Hack had been called Robert instead.

Jim was persuaded to enter Elmer's long-lost Scottish brother into the cartoon strip, and so we became The Friends of Robert T Hack. Unfortunately, some months later Robert still hadn't appeared and Elmer seemed to enter the state of limbo, if not hacktual demise, which still hides him today. All of which makes the name that much more silly, and obscure!

Anyway, whatever we're called (and we've been called many things far less polite) the Embro' group is a completely informal non-organisation, meeting (and drinking) every Tuesday in the Lounge Bar of the Abercraig

Hotel (see the posters at Albacon, folks!). Allen visitors should note that the pub is five minutes walk from the Eastern Scottish bus station, and ten minutes from Waverley Station..

Incidentally, any faans who have read this to find out about Rockon, well FORTH proudly dissociates itself from this Machievellian scheme. 'Twas none of our doing, masters, but the brainchild of an Evil Genius dwelling in the West....."

AND IF YOU BELIEVE THAT, YOU'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING.....quoth the evil one.

THE COMMITTEE
by the Committee

BOB SHAW It has often been said by Bob how lovely he is. Amazingly, someone agreed and has now married him! What can be said of this perverted felinophile sadist with his noted fondness for whips, rubberwear, and not to mention bazonka? All this can only serve as a taster for his true nature, as founder and single surviving member of the *Star Maidens* fan club.... Anything else known about this person can be bought for a reasonable sum at the Blackmail session! What's the speed of light, eh, Bob? And as for the two youth organisations, well, nudge nudge, say no more!

GERRY GILLIN Your very own Membership Secretary of Albacon... Gerry has the enviable distinction of having his favourite drink known by the staff of FOKT's pub as 'one of Gerry's'. Despite his outwardly horrible appearance, he is inwardly horrible.

HAL ROLLASON A dedicated eyesight mender, he partakes of SF and fantasy in equal measure, enjoying especially John Norman's *Gor* series. Being Treasurer of Albacon has lumbered him with many responsibilities, most of which he has managed to ignore! Hal is soon to be electronically mated, a new departure for any computer of the 9000 series.
Donations of money, women, and booze will be accepted!

THE CAT Is the brains behind the brawn. Secret master of Scottish Fandom, the Cat is the only ginger-furred member of the Albacon Committee. It has taken personal charge of Bob Shaw's filing system, and should have the kittens real soon now. During *The Captive Slideshow* watch Bob Shaw's lips. And then watch the Cat.

NEIL CRAIG Behind every well organised Convention Committee there stands one man and Neil intends to stay as far away from any hint of work as possible. He was the Book Dealers' Room organiser at the last Faircon, and fully intends to repeat his triumph this year at Albacon. He is willing to advise on the secret of good organisation for the price of a pint, as he has left his cash at home.

MIKE MOLLOY A procurer of unusual items and services. Need a floor plan of the Albany? A set of blueprints arrives. Heard about the sort of small rocket motors available in the US? A bang, and Skylab falls.

Mention his name in Atlantis, and run.

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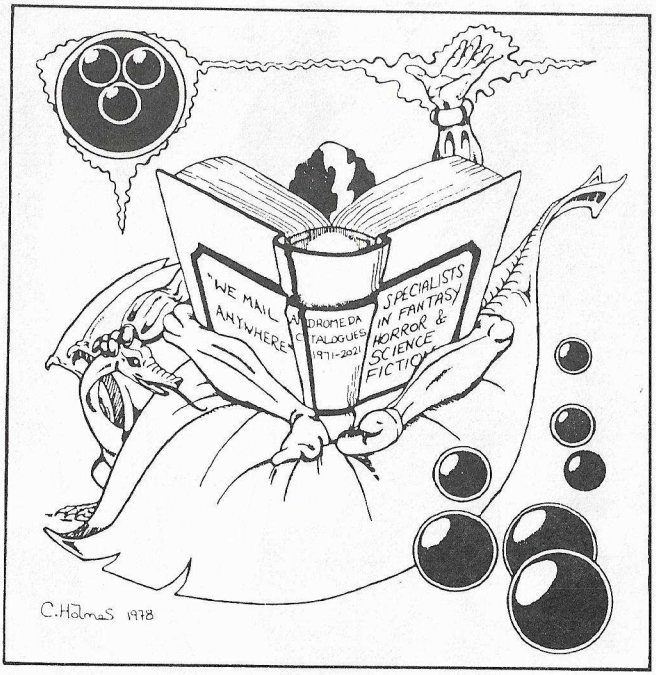

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TAFF: BARKER vs LANGFORD

Peter Roberts

Yes thanks, we know all the jokes about Welshmen. But even though we've got two Celts standing for TAFF this year, TAFF itself is an institution that goes even further west than Holyhead and the Outer Hebrides.

It goes to America in fact, because TAFF is the Transatlantic Fan Fund and exists to send well-known and popular fans across the ocean in search of fellow fans on the other side.

Fortunately they always manage to succeed in this task - and settle down to enjoy themselves at conventions, to drink a lot, to tell fans over there about fans over here, and generally to make friends and contacts abroad. None of the TAFF winners has yet run off with the money, so we reckon the institution is a success - and has been since it started way back in 1953.

TAFF works both ways and Americans sometimes travel over to marvel at our British way of life and to sample Guinness in the comfort of our alehouses. Terry Hughes came over via TAFF for the 1979 Seacon and he's now our American Administrator.

This year, however, we're exporting someone to the States - to the 1980 Boston world convention, in fact. There are two candidates for the trip - Jim Barker and Dave Langford - whom most of you will know, either in person or through their artwork and writings in fanzines.

It's your job to select the winner - the person who'll receive the money and make the journey over to the worldcon. This selection is quite simple: you obtain a TAFF ballot (Albacon is distributing them), read it through, and then vote for the candidate of your choice. The only catch is that you have to pay - a minimum of 50p, in fact - before your vote can be counted. This is where TAFF gets its money from, so don't feel too bad about it. The only other rule is that you must have been involved in fandom before July 1978; if you've only arrived since then, of course, you can still help by persuading others to vote (not too much violence, please) and by donating to or attending the TAFF auction at Albacon.

Deadline for voting is April 12th, just after the Albacon. And your friendly European Administrator is: Peter Roberts, 18 Westwood, Cofton, Starcross, Nr Exeter, Devon, England.

Have a good con - and vote!

FILMS

Bruce Saville & John Mooney

BEYOND THE TIME BARRIER:

So wonderfully bad that it is truly great. Makes Earth Vs the Flying Saucers seem intellectual. JM

A must. Be warned: This film details the dangers of faster than sound travel, and the horrors of the future. We dare you to see it and not be moved to tears of laughter. Edgar E Ulmer was the one responsible for the worst film of all time. BS

BLAZING SADDLES:

Not SF? So what? Hilarious and certainly Fantasy. JM

If you have ever seen a Western then you must see this. Mel Brooks parodies the whole genre in the best film he ever produced. Like Young Frankenstein In that some of the fun for movie buffs comes from the scenes lifted from High Noon and Destry rides Again. Much of the remaining humour stems from bizarre little scenes which would have had Randolph Scott and Gary Cooper becoming insurance salesmen. BS

CURSE OF THE FLY:

Sequel to The Fly. In glorious Cinemascope, a must for Vincent Price fans. JM

If this film brings a scream from the audience it is actually someone with an unusual laugh.... Try not to split your sides laughing as it makes a terrible mess. Dave Ellis has badgered Glasgow fandom for years to have this film, so he'd better turn up and watch it! BS

DARK STAR:

Originally produced by University of Southern California students for a paltry sum, the film concerns the mission of the starship *Dark Star*. Boldly going to destroy any unstable star systems it features a captain who is dead, yet still crazy about baseball, a deranged surfer, and a navigator who wants to Merge With The Cosmic All. Not to mention a case of mistaken identity and a silken-voiced computer. Plus the funniest alien ever, and an intelligent bomb which refuses NOT to explode!

See it! JM

A cult movie, not to be missed unless you've seen it more than three times, and even then you should go along for the community singing during 'Benson, Arizona'. BS

DESTINATION MOON:

Any Member enquiring about this will be directed to the padded cell where it will be shown. JM

It's back! Yes, the film that thrilled you at Faircon returns to thrill you. Made in 1950 (from a story by Heinlein) it's technical detail and special effects still look good (especially the scenes at lift-off, showing the effect of G-forces on the body).
A film not to be missed if a) you have yet to see it b)you are an SF movie buff c) a Woody Woodpecker fan d) the bars are shut or e) you are a masochist.
Guess how many times it will be shown and you can have a private screening..... BS

DOCTOR STRANGELOVE: Or, how I learned to stp worrying to stop worrying and love the Bomb:

Humorous treatment of nuclear holocaust. Masterly performance(s) by Peter Sellers in three parts. Strangelove's prosthetic arm has a remarkable life --and loyalty-- of it's own. Also stars Sterling Hayden as the General who starts it all in order to protect his precious bodily fluids. Watch too for Slim Pickens. JM

A fine movie for any of us with faith in the Establishment. As with all of Kubrick's work the background is superb, minutely detailed, with supremely apposite musical accompaniement. Listen for "Just a little bit of loving" while B52s are refuelled in the air, and "We'll meet again" over the (happy) ending.

Kubrick was persuaded to change one word in the film after Kennedy was shot in Dallas, shortly before the work was released. Originally, a member of the B52 bomber crew is seen going through his survival kit whilst on the way to the USSR. He itemises the contents, and, pulling out a revolver, says "Just what you need for a weekend in Dallas". Sadly, the town was changed! BS

DOPPLEGANGER:

I am informed that this is a Gerry Anderson movie, and is at least up to the standard of Spase: 1899. JM

A Gerry Anderson feature film with actual people, and his best effort to date. Which isn't to say it is any good, just not as bad! BS

FORBIDDEN PLANET:

Most notable for the introduction of Robbie the Robot. Strange forces wreak havoc on a distant planet. Enter the US cavalry, stage left. A classic. JM

The SF version of The Tempest and standby of the BBC's SF film seasons. Still worth watching, more so as we have the Cinemascope version. The production of this movie was superb, and is a joy to behold. Classic 1950s SF. BS

HARDWARE WARS:

You'll never see Star Wars again without laughing. A super cheap effort that is said to have had George Lucas in hysterics. JM

How to Conquer The Universe armed with a cassette recorder, toaster, and vacuum cleaner. BS

KAMA SUTRA RIDES AGAIN:

Filth. JM

Hilarious x-rated short by Bob Godfrey. BS

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW:

If you think this might be a good film, then think again. You may be sure that at the midnight showing you'll hear little of the soundtrack, as the masses of ardent fans sing along. Crude, crass, cheap and nasty, but entertaining. Be careful in case you make a cult of yourself, though. JM

Yet another skit on Frankie films, and not as good as the original. No plot. BS

SOYLENT GREEN:

In 2022, youngster Charlton Heston becomes friendly with old-timer Edward G Robinson, who tells him of the days of Real Food. The plot thickens.... Listen hard; you may not be able to hear the sound track for Harry Harrison screaming in the back row. He wrote the fine novel on which this pile of dingo's kidneys is based, Make Room! Make Room! JM

For a critical review ask Harry Harrison, and run. BS

THE CAR:

Excellent horror movie. What more appropriate object of fear and foreboding in this age than a car. The vehicle seems to move more like a living creature than a machine, and stars in a spectacular ending packed full of subliminal punch. JM

A strange little film that could go on to be a cult movie. It deals with a black car that nobody sees a driver in, and that starts to kill the residents of a backwater town. The car refuses to drive into the cemetary.... James Brolin has the part of the Sheriff who doesn't believe it is supernatural. Slightly different from his role in The Amityville Horror! BS

THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON:

The old Monster-meets-girl story. Great film to sing along with. "Look out behind you!" takes on a whole new meaning. In glorious 3D, so if it looks blurred you aren't wearing your glasses. JM

My Favourite Monster. Good special effects- for underwater scenes scuba gear was built into the monster suit, allowing lengthy sojourns deep in the Black Lagoon (well, studio tank). BS

THE WAR GAME:

The perfect antidote to Doctor Strangelove. When shown after Kubrick's effort at the first Faircon you could have heard a pin drop. If this short doesn't terrify you (and it is a decade out of date in terms of destructive potential) then you're mad. CND's single best bit of propaganda.

JM

Originally made for BBC-TV, the film was judged to be too frightful to be shown to the potential victims. It gained a limited cinema showing in the late 60s, and stands today as a masterpiece of "documentary" realism.

BS

TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING:

Burt Lancaster is an ex-General sinned against by nasty (boo, hiss) Richard Widmark. Imprisoned, he breaks out with a group of prisoners and takes over a missile base, where he is able (due to inside knowledge) over-ride all safety mechanisms. A tense movie with a topical theme, this forms part of our Nuclear Destruction Evening.

JM

A serious film with much to be said for it. Compare Lancaster in this movie with his role in Seven days in May where he plans a military coup in the USA.

BS

2001: a space odyssey :

Sixties cult movie. In my view it is poetry in reverse, being an example of how to take a neat and effective piece of short fiction ("The Sentinel" by Arthur C Clarke) and turn it into an over long, laboured, example of geewhizzery. It is, however, visually stunning and a real attempt to break out of the rockets-and-rayguns mould of SF movie.

JM

Simply the best SF film ever made. Watch out for Steve miller, who has seen it about thirty times!

BS

WIZARDS:

Brilliant, witty, animated parody of The Lord of the Rings. Both animation and dialogue are superb, and the closing scene provides a hilarious climax.

JM

The film the Committee will not miss. Directed by the man who made Fritz the cat and recently, The Lord of the Rings.

BS

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN:

Gene Wilder as the Doc, Marty Feldman as Igor. Need I say more? Shot in grainy black-and-white, with original-sounding music it used the actual Universal sets for the 1931 original. Excellent running gags (Igor's hump, "Where wolf?", Frau Blucher, Frankensteen, etc, etc) and a truly affectionate sense of fun make this a great piece of entertainment.

JM

May not be strictly SF but a funny film. Mel Brooks gets into the old lets-create-life bit with a vengeance. Look out for the scenes with the blind hermit, the little girl, and the mayor. Plus tap-dancing by the monster!

BS

MEMBERSHIP

List complete to 1st April 1980. (f)= Full attending Membership
(s)= Supporting Membership
(p)= Pre-Supporting Membership

1 Colin Kapp
2
3 Jim Barker
4 James White
5 Bob Shaw
6 Bob Jewett
7 Gerry Gillin
8 Hal Rollason
9 Steve Miller
10 William Bavington
11 Owen Whiteoak (f)
12 Dave Ellis
13 Norman Shorrock (f)
14 Eric Bentcliffe (p)
15 Allan Boyd-Newton (s)
16 Liz Boyd-Newton (s)
17 Joyce Mains
18 Jimmy Robertson
19 Vera Johnson (f)
20 Billy Ramsey (p)
21 Colin Fine (p)
22 Rosemary Pardoe (f)
23 Darrol Pardoe (f)
24 David Todd (f)
25 Clive Telford (p)
26 Lester Hannington (f)
27 Nellie Pardoel (s)
28 Lawrence Proctor (p)
29 J A Burnett (p)
30 Paul R Dormer (s)
31 Dave Lermit (p)
32 Margaret Draper (p)
33 Graham England (s)
34 John Bonsor (p)
35 Margaret Austin (f)
36 John Mooney
37 Michael Molloy (p)
38 Nick Lowe (f)
39 Ed Buckley
40 Ken Mann (f)
41 Bernie M Earp (s)
42 Bob Whittaker (f)
43 Neil Craig
44 Henry Newton (f)
45 Cherry Newton (f)
46 D Stokes (p)
47 David Thomas (s)
48 Lars Stranberg (f)
49 Malcolm Smale (f)
50 Iain Dickson (f)
51 P G Miller (p)
52 Bruce Saville
53 Derek Holt (f)
54 Russ P Smallcross (s)
55 Janice Anderson (f)
56 Mr Spevin (p)
57
58 Mark Craske (s)
59 Ken Slater (f)
60 " " (f)
61 Colin Lester (p)
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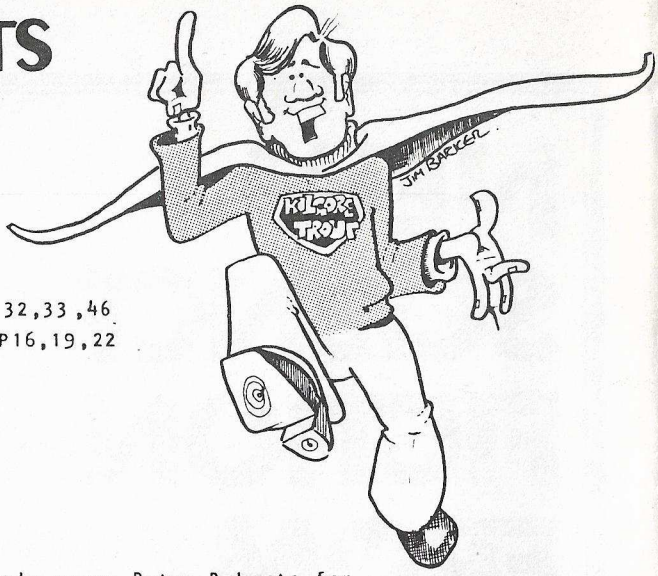

ART & PHOTOS

JIM BARKER: P3,4,5,10,28,32,33,46

ED BUCKLEY: Front Cover, P16,19,22

Dave Har

DAVE HARWOOD: P6,8,17,36

BOB SHAW: 32,33

SANDY BROWN: P32 (photos)

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....the dead line for advertising copy for the Programme Booklet was the tenth of February, and here it was Friday February 8th, and all I had was some blank sheets of paper and some Drytype. I never have been much good at advertising - getting on with the job always seems to me to have priority - but a certain amount is necessary, I guess. So I sent a message through to Bob Shaw to say I'd find something to fill the page we'd booked, but it might be a bit late. So Sunday evening Bob rings me up and asks how is it going and so I say well not so well; I've just got

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on a blank sheet of paper and I can't think of anything else to say. So Bob says why not just tell them you sell books and magazines and things.

So there you are... we sell books and magazines and things. Mostly with some science fiction or fantasy connection. The hairy thing sitting in a chair in the shop window most of the day is not for sale, tho. That is Snoopy, our offog.

Write for a catalogue some time.

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